

\*\*\*\*\*May 20, 2020\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a budget meeting electronically on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. Those present were:

Those present were: Mayor Dan Landrum  
Councilmember Cheryl Graham  
Councilmember Bill Lusk  
Councilmember Susannah Murdock

Also present were: Town Manager Boyd Veal  
Town Attorney Harry Cash  
Finance Director/Town Recorder Carol White

Mayor Landrum led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

Mayor Landrum asked the Council to review the agenda and the Town Code regarding the Order of Business. He said that the Citizens Opportunity to Address Council was not included on this agenda as the budget worksession has not included this item in the past.

Town Attorney, Harry Cash, said that all item listed in the Municipal Code Order of Business should be listed on the agenda with a note that items can be removed.

Following discussion, Mayor Landrum made a motion to suspend Citizens Opportunity to Address Council and in addition to remove the communications from the Mayor, Committees, and Town Council. Councilmember Graham seconded the motion. The motion failed by roll call vote, with Councilmember Graham and Mayor Landrum in favor, and with Councilmember Lusk and Councilmember Murdock voting present.

Councilmember Graham made a motion to have Citizens Opportunity to Address the Council at 1:00 p.m. Councilmember Murdock seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of the motion.

### **FY 2020-2021 Budget Discussion**

Town Manager, Boyd Veal, read the budget introduction (copy attached).

The Council discussed the Town Manager's Recommended Budget for fiscal year 2020-21, including the effect of employee raises, long-term capital expenditures, the impact of the end of Hall income tax and Fire Department SAFER grant revenues. The Council reviewed each department's revenue, spending and capital needs, if applicable, with each department head. The Council discussed anticipated sales tax revenue declines and the fund balance positions.

During discussions about the Mountain Arts Community Center (MACC) budget, Mayor Landrum disclosed that the Signal Mountain Elementary Preservation Fund (SMEPF) proposes to run the

MACC operations for the coming fiscal year. Council agreed to have a special meeting to discuss this proposal.

The Council met as the Water Board from 12:29 to 1:00 p.m. to discuss the Water Fund budget.

Council discussed the need for a formal review process for the Town Manager to determine whether a pay increase is merited. Council agreed they needed a special meeting to discuss this issue.

Councilmember Murdock made a motion to have a special meeting on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the Town Manager's review and the future of the MACC. She said that citizens comments will be on the agenda and to remove the reports from Committees, Town Manager, and Town Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Graham. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of the motion.

Council discussed the need to improve the e-mail system used by the Town. Councilmember Graham made a motion to add to the FY 2020-2021 budget the amount of \$10,800.00 for e-mail. Councilmember Murdock seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Murdock made a motion to move the FY 2020-2021 budget forward, with the one change of adding \$10,800.00, to take up at the next meeting. Councilmember Lusk seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of the motion.

### **Citizen Comments**

Mayor Landrum invited comments from the audience. There being none, the meeting resumed.

### **Discussion**

- a. Use of Recreation Facilities. Council had extensive discussion regarding opening the pool. Identified issues included how to sanitize restrooms, maintain social distancing, and limit participation. Council also expressed concern as to how teenage lifeguards would enforce rules. There was discussion regarding the costs of opening the pool. Mayor Landrum asked staff to prepare a cost estimate for Wednesday's special meeting of opening the pool for lap swimming, including the cost of lifeguards, with bathrooms and concessions closed.

Council reached consensus to open North Palisades parking areas and access to Rainbow Lake. Staff will place additional no parking signs on adjacent streets.

- b. Town Operations. Mr. Veal explained that the past Friday was the last day that the Council had granted authorization to pay part time people. He said that if the closures at the MACC and gym continue, the part time employees need to be given a formal notice of layoff so that they can qualify for benefits. The continued pay provisions were not extended.

- c. Upcoming Council vacancy. Mayor Landrum informed the Council that Vice Mayor Speek had given notice that her last day on the Council will be July 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Veal explained that the Council has 30 days to appoint a replacement, or a special election will be called by the Election Commission. However, he said that if the Council did not appoint someone in that time, it would be too late for a special election (a special election can't be held within 30 days of a regular election).

#### **Other Business**

- a. Communications from the Mayor. None
- b. Communications from Committees or Boards. Mayor Landrum said the Library Board will be meeting more often due to the pandemic. He explained that they don't usually meet in the summer.

Councilmember Graham said that the Historical Committee hopes to start scanning documents for cloud storage.

- c. Communications from the Town Council. None.

#### **Tentative Agenda**

Council moved the discussion of the tentative agenda for the June 8, 2020 to the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

  
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Dan Landrum, Mayor  
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Recorder